



City of Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee 2023-2024 Annual Report to City Council

Chair: Phil Olson

Date: August 31, 2024

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, the Military Economic Development Advisory Committee volunteers and liaisons met 9 times, 3 of which were joint meetings with Norfolk and Portsmouth MEDAC.

MEDAC was established in 2008 as an advisory committee to work cooperatively with City Council, the City Manager's Office and the Department of Economic Development. Their collaborative efforts are to support and strengthen City-Military relations with commanding officers and tenant commands at Virginia Beach military installations; identify economic development opportunities for the City with the various military commands; work with the military to assist private contractors in locating to and conducting business in Virginia Beach; identify military members separating from the Navy and other military branches who may be candidates for employment with businesses in Virginia Beach or other areas within Hampton Roads; and provide information to the Department of Economic Development and the City Manager's Office concerning issues that may be addressed by the City to assist the various commands in carrying out their respective missions.

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed below, along with recommendations for your consideration.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Military Economic Development Advisory Committee is to serve as an advisory agency to the Virginia Beach City Council to enhance the coordination efforts with local military base commanders and their various installation tenants.

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

1. **Outreach to Navy and other Military Commands** through the support and strengthening of City-Military relations with the various base commanders and tenant commands.

- A. In conjunction with City Council, the Military Economic Development Advisory Committee wrote a letter of support for home-basing of next-generation strike fighter aircraft at Naval Air Station Oceana
- B. Continued command visits.
- C. Supported the creation of a Portsmouth MEDAC.

2. **Economic Development Opportunities** by identifying opportunities within the various military commands that engage defense contractors in support of their mission. Examples include working with the military to help private contractors locate and conduct business locally.

- A. Engaged with the Department of Economic Development regarding Naval Air Station Oceana's Future Base Design initiative.

3. **Workforce Development** as appropriate, and with the support of the military, seeking to identify service members separating from the military who may be candidates for employment by local businesses.

- A. The HIVE-Virginia Beach Business Resource Center had another successful year, now adding more than 525 new clients and counting 140+ business resource partners. Throughout the year, The HIVE conducted 226 trainings and workshops, assisted more than 1,200 businesses and startups with one-on-one counseling sessions, helped 188 organizations secure their state SWaM business certifications, and celebrated 90 Business Plan graduates. Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, the partnership with Virginia Wesleyan University catered to 2,600 individuals seeking to enhance their workforce skills, culminating in the awarding of over 1,000 certificates in high-demand areas of the local workforce. Some of the most popular courses included Project Management Essentials with CAPM, CompTIA A+ Certification Workshop Core 1 & 2, Intermediate and Advanced Excel Training, Creating a Successful Business Plan, and Fundamentals of Supervision and Management.
- B. The HIVE continues to work with the Hampton Roads Veteran Employment Centers and the Veterans Business Outreach Centers on different programs and initiatives to assist exiting military service members with employment and/or starting a business, initiatives that the Virginia Beach MEDAC supported and promoted as well. Special programs were dedicated to veteran-owned businesses and military spouses like the Veteran's Small Business Roundtable and Thrive at the HIVE, the no-cost workspace at the HIVE, offering business resources to startups and existing businesses. During the year, The HIVE succeeded in assisting 120 veteran-owned businesses with their ventures.

- C. Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Centers job fairs and quarterly event ongoing support.

4. **Virginia Beach Military Affairs** a. Supported Change of Command ceremonies, installation ribbon cuttings, and Veteran Care Center initiatives.

Membership and Attendance

Attached Separately

Financial Report (if applicable)

This agency is an advisory committee that does not need nor have a budget.

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

- Continued engagement with Secretary Crenshaw (Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs)
- Engagement and support for Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facility Alliance and the Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Centers
- Command Briefings and Military Outreach (NAS Oceana, JEB Little Creek-Fort Story, Dam Neck Annex, NSW Group 2 (SEAL Teams))
- Continue efforts with the Secretary of the Navy's office, NAVFAC Mid Atlantic, and NAS Oceana leadership to realize Future Base Design plan.
- Continue collaboration with Portsmouth and Norfolk MEDAC

Recommendations to City Council

The Military Economic Development Advisory Committee respectfully requests the continued support of the Virginia Beach City Council on the Committee's strategic military affairs engagement and business community development initiatives and efforts through City Council direction and with the assistance of the City's Department of Economic Development.

Closing

Should you have any questions or require a formal City Council briefing on the work of this team, please feel free to reach out to Phil Olson, MEDAC Chair at prolson@cox.net and or the City Staff Liaison, Charles Bauman at cbauman@vbgov.com & MEDAC City Staff Recording Admin, Kayla Dotson at kbdotson@vbgov.com.

City of Virginia Beach
Military Economic Development Advisory Committee
2023 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:		Aug 28 th	Sep 25 th joint	Oct 30 th	Nov 27 th joint	Dec 19 th Special	Total Present
Lawrence L. Barbrey, MCPO, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	P	P	P	E	4/5
Christopher W. Chope, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	E	P	P	E	3/5
Kevin Cook, RADM, USCG (Ret)	2/28/2026		E	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/2
John J. Cummings, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2026		P	P	P	P/V	E	4/5
Elizabeth Dietzmann	2/28/2025		A	E	A	P/V	E	1/5
Mark Gemmill, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		A	E	P/V	P	E	2/5
Loren V. Heckelman, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	E	P	P	E	3/5
Robert Herbert, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	E	P	P	P	4/5
Robert D. Katz, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		E	P	P	P	P	4/5
Charles R. Kubic, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	E	P	A	E	2/5
Gregory Nosal, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027		P	E	P	P	E	3/5
Phillip Olson, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P/V	P	E	P	P	4/5
Kathleen Owens, CDR, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	P	P	P	E	4/5

Ronnie Parker, VBDA Liaison	2/29/2028		N/A	P	E	P/V	E	2/4
Fenton Priest, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P	P	P	P	P	5/5
Louis J. Schager, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2025		P	P	P	P	E	4/5
Robert E. Smith, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028		P/V	E	P	P	E	3/5
Joseph Strange, VBDA Liaison	2/29/2028		A	R	R	R	R	0/1
Charles Stuppard, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027		P/V	P	P	P	E	4/5
Total Present			13/18	10/18	14/18	16/18	*4/18	
Council Member Liaison Rocky Holcomb	N /A							0
Council Member Liaison Chris Taylor	N/A					P		1
Staff Liaison Charles Bauman	N/A		P			P	P	3
Staff Liaison Elisabeth Parker	N/A		P	P				3
Staff Liaison ShiKim Holden	N/A			P	P	P	P	4
Staff Liaison Vicki Kelley	N/A						P	1

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)

City Council and Staff Liaisons should be marked either P or P/V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank

If Commissioners participate P/V, it must be annotated in the Minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or Staff Liaisons.

Meetings lacking a quorum of Members attending in-person should be designated with an asterisk (*)

December 19, 2023 was a special called meeting to give direction to the upcoming Chairman and Vice Chairman and their duties. Only the members present were required to attend. Those in attendance were Members Fenton Priest, Phillip Olson, Robert D. Katz, Steve Herbert; Charles Bauman, Economic Development MEDAC Liaison; ShiKim Holden and Vicki Kelley, Admin for Economic Development.

City of Virginia Beach
Military Economic Development Advisory Committee
2024 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 22 nd	Feb 26 th	Mar 25 th		May 20 th Joint		Total Present
Lawrence L. Barbrey, MCPO, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	E	P		E		2/4
Christopher W. Chope, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P/V	P	P		P		4/4
John J. Cummings, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2026	P	P	E		P		3/4
Curtis, William E, CAPT USN (Ret)	2/28/2025	E	P	P/V		P		3/4
Mark Gemmill, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	E		P		2/4
Loren V. Heckelman, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P/V	P	P		E		3/4
Robert Herbert, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	P		P		4/4
Robert L. Holmes CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2030	N/A	N/A	P		P		2/2
Robert D. Katz, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	P/V		P		4/4
Eric L. Keplinger VBDA Liaison	Based on DA Terms	N/A	N/A	P		P		2/2
Charles R. Kubic, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	E		P		3/4
Gregory Nosal, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027	P	P	P		E		3/4
Phillip Olson, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	P		P		4/4

Kathleen Owens, CDR, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P/V	E	P		P		3/4
Fenton Priest, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	E		P		3/4
Louis J. Schager, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2025	E	P	P		P/V		3/4
Robert E. Smith, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	E	P/V	P/V		P		3/4
Charles Stuppard, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027	P	P	E		P/V		3/4
Total Present		13/18	14/18	13/18		15/18		
Council Member Liaison Amelia Ross Hammond	N /A	N/A	N/A	P				1
Council Member Liaison Chris Taylor	N/A							0
Staff Liaison Charles Bauman	N/A	P	P	P		P		4
Staff Liaison Vicki Kelley	N/A	P	P	P		P		4
Staff Liaison Kayla Dotson	N/A	N/A	P	P		P		3

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)

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Meetings lacking a quorum of Members attending in-person should be designated with an asterisk (★)

City of Virginia Beach
Military Economic Development Advisory Committee (MEDAC)
2023-2024 Volunteer Hours

Name	Aug 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	May 2024	Total
Barbery, Lawrence L	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5		1.5		9
Chope, Christopher W	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10.5
Cook, Kevin		1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5
Cummings, John	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	10.5
Curtis, William	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		1.5	1.5	1.5	4.5
Deitzmann, Elizabeth				1.5		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5
Gemmill, Mark			1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	7.5
Heckelman, Loren V	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5		9
Herbert, Robert (Steve)	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	12
Holmes, Robert	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	1.5	3
Katz, Robert D.		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	12
Keplinger, Eric	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	1.5	3
Kubic, Charles	1.5		1.5			1.5	1.5		1.5	7.5
Nosal, Gregory	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5		9

Olson, Phillip	1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	12
Owens, Kathy	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5		1.5	1.5	10.5
Parker, Ronnie	N/A	1.5		1.5		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
Priest, Fenton	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5	12
Schager, Lous J	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5			1.5	1.5	1.5	10.5
Smith, Robert E	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10.5
Strange, Joe		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Stuppard, Charles	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5		1.5	10.5
Total Hours	19.5	15	21	24	6	21	21	19.5	22.5	169.5

Military Economic Development Advisory Committee voted to move to a Bi-Monthly schedule in February 2024

A total of 169.5 Volunteer hours through June 30. 2024

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